

Expert Tuner Travels With Artist Who Will Open Concert Series Nov. 9

FOUR pianos go along when Sergei Rachmaninoff starts on one of his lengthy American tours. This does not mean that all four are sent to every city. They are kept in different sections of the country so that when the pianist has to make a long jump between cities, there will be no danger of his being minus the right kind of a piano when it is time for his recital to begin.

A piano tuner always travels with him to check up on the instrument before every concert.

"It's mostly the weather that affects the pitch, but one of those heavy programs can do a lot of damage to the keys too," the tuner explains.

In between times the piano tuner reads detective stories, sees movies and sleeps. At every concert he sits in the wings. He tells an amusing story of how once while they were riding to the concert hall in Toronto, Rachmaninoff suddenly turned to him and exclaimed: "God save the King."

Not knowing just what to make of this solicitous exclamation he kept still, but Rachmaninoff continued.

"Tell me how the tune goes. I had forgotten it must always be played here at the beginning of a concert, and I cannot remember how it goes."

Then the tuner understood. The boss needed prompting on the tune "God Save the King." So while they were riding along, he whistled it, Mr. Rachmaninoff whistled it. They whistled it together. And by the time they reached the concert hall the pianist was prepared to play it.

The Rachmaninoff concert is the first in the series of four presented by the University Concerts, Inc. It will be Monday evening, Nov. 9. The others are: The Ballet Theater, the Minneapolis Symphony and Gladys Swarthout of the Metropolitan Opera Association. Mail orders may be addressed to the University Concerts, Inc., University of Tennessee. Single tickets to each of the above programs are now available. Concerts headquarters are in the University YMCA Building on the Campus. Reservations may be made by calling 3-7177.